

Alpha *SPEaks*



President's Update

Brothers of New Jersey Alpha,

As the 2018-2019 school year comes to an end, I am proud to say that we had another great semester at 530 Hudson Street. Whether it be in recruitment, academics, philanthropy, or leadership development, brothers are striving to bring NJA to new heights. Our recent push to make the culture of recruitment more prominent in the chapter paid off early in the semester, as we had 21 new members join our chapter. This ties the record for the most new members we have had join in a single semester. While having so many new members is great, what is even more impressive is the quality of men that compose this class. These 21 brothers include 3 varsity athletes, several Eagle scouts, and 5 Balanced Man Scholarship finalists. These brothers have already started to get involved in the chapter, and we are very excited to see the impact they will have in the years to come.

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Pujan Shah

Vice President of Programming



Douglas Wrede

Vice President of Member Development



Kirk Vasilas

Vice President of Finance



Dominic Malfetano

Vice President of Recruitment



Samuel Young

Chaplain



Ethan Guerra

Vice President of Communications

President's Update



Jacob Schozer

Chapter President

We kept this early momentum going by attaining success in several other areas of operation. In a chapter with 90 brothers, which is one of the largest on campus, we managed to achieve a chapter GPA of 3.602, the highest of any Greek organization. And while academics are extremely important, we didn't stop there. We continued striving for success in our philanthropic efforts, spearheaded by 2 main events: Escape the Extension and Castle Point King.

In our third year of Escape the Extension, we journeyed beyond anything we had done before with our theme of "Lost in Space". We invited a team of Stevens Student Life staff to participate, strengthening our partnership with the university, and we had a team of brothers from the NJ Zeta chapter at Rider attempt to escape as well. While using this event to outreach to several groups, it was also our most successful year in terms of funds raised, with \$1,380 donated to a fellow Stevens Greek Life member who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Continuing on to the Castle Point King competition, SigEp claimed royalty once again as brother Nic Nuila was named Castle Point King for his performance, assisted by many chapter brothers. As part of this event, NJA raised over \$4,300 in support of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) and the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD).

On top of reclaiming the title of Castle Point King, SigEp brothers also received recognition at the annual Greek Leadership Awards Dinner held each Spring. At this ceremony, brother Daniel Fenton took home the Senior Legacy award, and brother Jacob Meiskin was named Fraternity Member of the Year, the third year in a row that a SigEp has claimed this honor.

As the Spring semester wraps up and we look forward to the summer, we are excited for the developmental opportunities that are awaiting several of our brothers. We have 5 brothers attending the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute, a program run by the North American Interfraternity Conference to develop Greek Leaders across the country. On top of this, we have a brother attending the Ruck Leadership Institute, and for the second year in a row, we have an NJA brother attending the prestigious Tragos Quest to Greece.

Unfortunately, the end of the Spring semester also means that we will be saying goodbye to our graduating class of 25 seniors. This year's group of seniors was an exceptional one, with many of them serving the chapter on the Executive Committee or other leadership roles during their undergraduate years. We hope to see their hard work pay off in July when the Buchanan Cup recipients are announced at the 56th Grand Chapter Conclave down in Houston. It will be sad to see them all go, but we thank them for all of their efforts throughout the years, and we will work to continue the legacy of excellence that they are leaving at NJA. This Spring semester was a great one, and we are excited for what the Fall has in store!

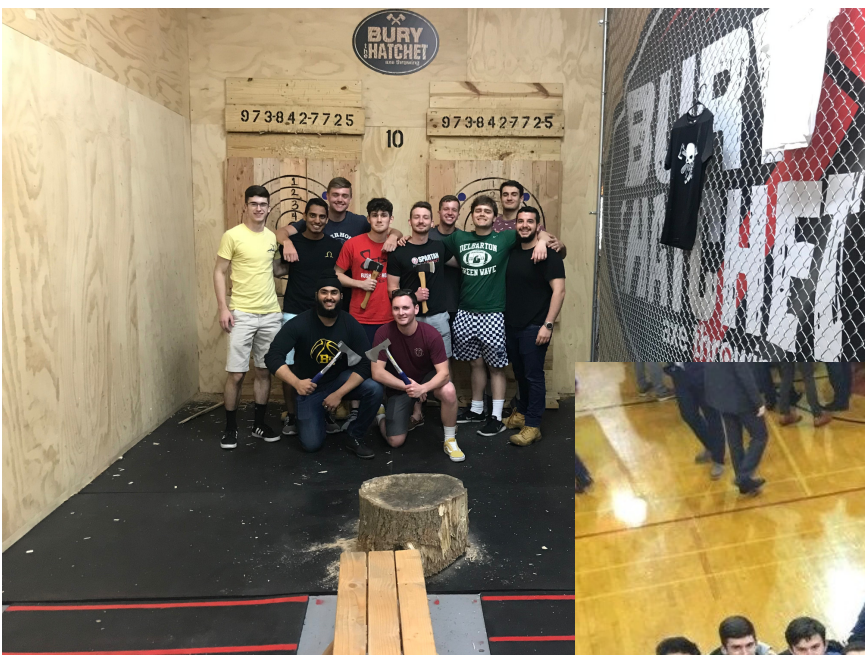
Fraternally,
Jacob Schozer
1139
Chapter President

Brotherhood Events



Brothers went to go see "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical" back in March

At the end of the semester Brothers went to Bury the Hatchet for some ax throwing



Brothers Bellah, Skurnik, and Ku, put together this years escape the extension

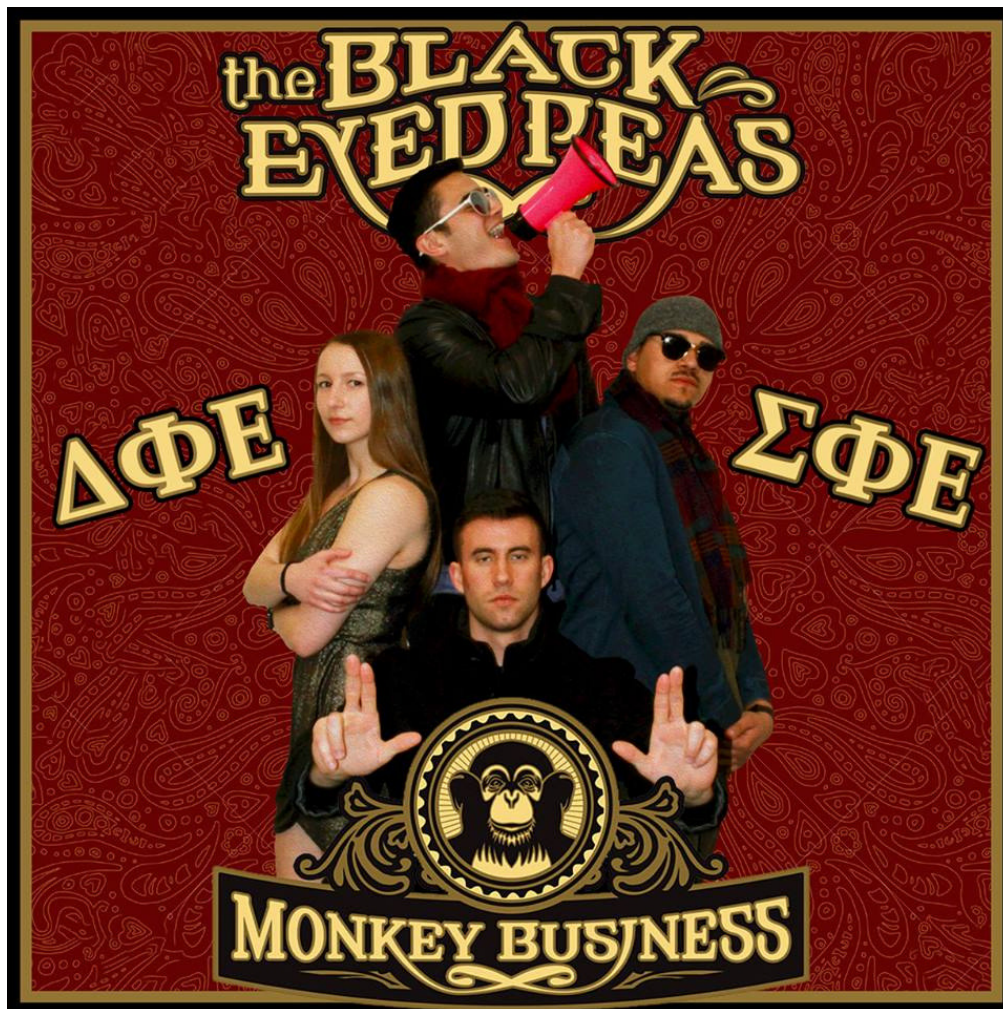
We welcomed 21 new brothers this semester, that number matches our largest class to date!



The Road to Castle Point King

By Nicolas Nuila, Class of 2019

Every year in the Spring semester, the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon host a philanthropy event called Castle Point King (CPK). The event is dance competition among the fraternities on campus, where each fraternity nominates a brother as their “prince” who will lead the fraternities team in the dance and fundraising efforts. After about two months of preparation and fundraising, the event culminates with each team competing on stage to win the title of Castle Point King. All of the money raised goes towards the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) and the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD). Castle Point King is one of the largest events of the Spring semester, and normally has about 600 people in attendance. This year the event raised a total of nearly 18,000 dollars for CFF and ANAD, and Sigma Phi Epsilon won the event and raised nearly 4,500 dollars!



Picture above: (top) Brother Nicolas Nuila, (middle) Karina Hunstein from Delta Phi Epsilon and Brother Cristopher Collado, and (bottom) Brother Paul Moyer

Each year the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon choose a theme for that years CPK, and this year the theme was early 2000s music. After some brainstorming among the brothers, SigEp decided to perform as the Black Eyed Peas, with brother Nicolas Nuila leading the team as prince. The SigEp team this year decided to focus on the roots of the event: fundraising and good dancing. Brothers Jesse Priest, Ryan Tom, Jeff Sprague, Pujan Shah, and Dom Malfetano took inspiration from several dance routines and developed the choreography for the show.

The Road to Castle Point King

Brothers Kevin Baccaro and Jacob Meiskin filmed and developed the introduction video for the performance. Brother Daniel Raleigh led the fundraising efforts and organized the philanthropy events for the SigEp team, and many other brothers assisted in all of the logistics of organizing the performance. Overall it was a massive team effort, with about 25 brothers being involved as well as about 15 sisters from Delta Phi Epsilon. The dance team was practicing nearly every night for the weeks leading up to the event to ensure that the performance was as good as it could be.

Castle Point King is one of the biggest events for the Greek community during the Spring semester, and so while it is first and foremost a philanthropy event, spirits can get very high as fraternities invest themselves into the competition. SigEp had been known as the dominant fraternity in CPK for years until 2016 when our win streak was broken. Nic Nuila intended on bringing that win back for SigEp, and with the help of the brothers and the sisters in Delta Phi Epsilon that were heavily involved, created a performance that had tight choreography, acrobatic stunts, and fun music. Within three weeks of the event, everyone who was involved practically had their lives consumed with the event between the practices planning, and logistics. Tensions were high, the fundraising race was neck and neck, and everyone was starting to get anxious to see how their performance would compare to the others.

The final version of the performance included 4 acts, the first set the stage with some intricate group choreography to "Let's Get It Started" followed by a scene with several skits, including brother Roger Il Grande performing a trumpet solo of the song "Pump It." The next scene was a dance battle involving some flashy dance moves and acrobatic techniques between SigEp brothers and sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon, set to the songs "Pump it" and "Fergalicious". And finally the performance closed with "I Gotta Feeling" and all of the performers taking their bows.

The scoring was based on an audience vote, a panel of judges, total money raised, and a vote of the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon. SigEp ended up winning the vote of the judges and the audience, winning the overall event. We raised the second most money of any fraternity, second to Alpha Sigma Phi who raised a grand total of 5,700 dollars. Alpha Sigma Phi won second place overall, and took their fundraising efforts very seriously as they have an active alumni who is affected by Cystic Fibrosis, and so this cause was near and dear to their hearts This CPK was the most successful, raising nearly twice the amount raised in the previous years and bringing in record attendance. At the end of the day, all of the brothers and sisters involved in the SigEp performance were happy to be able to have fun performing on stage and raise money in support of such worthwhile causes!



Senior Reflection



Daniel Lum, Class of 2019

It feels weird to say that in a few weeks I will be moving out of 530 Hudson Street to move back home to Long Island. This feels especially strange because of how much of a home SigEp has been to me throughout my college career. I've never been more comfortable in a place that wasn't my home, and that's because of the amazing family that I have found in SigEp NJA.

When I walked through the big red door at NJA, my eyes were opened to a whole new world. In just my first semester as a Sigma, I was challenged to push myself to new limits both physically and mentally. Soon after I graduated to becoming a Phi and I had focused on broadening my horizons and looking inward. I thought about how I could use my skills and interests to make the chapter a better place for everyone else. I started on the

recruitment committee, ensuring that the next rounds of brothers will be the type of people to raise the status quo of the fraternity to new heights.

After 2 years of recruitment I wanted to find a new, more powerful way to give back to the chapter. It was during this time that I truly found my place in SigEp. I learned to use my passions and hobbies as an avenue to get involved in SigEp and challenge the brothers around me. I used my talents as an artist to host paint and sip sessions with my peers. My love for expressing my creativity through dance was shared with my brothers when I conducted an introduction to dancing seminar. I soon took the reigns of organizing the inter-fraternal dance competitions.

The dance competition that will be most memorable for me is the CPK competition where I represented my fraternity as Mulan. With the help and undying support of my brothers, we raised over \$2,500 for ANAD and the Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation. We put on an amazing performance that shocked the audience. My brothers know that I put my heart and soul into the things that I care about, and this performance was a great display of this. When all was said and done, we lost the competition and I was crushed. I wanted to win the competition for my brothers. However, the support I felt after that night was truly indescribable. It was in that moment that I really felt the heart of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I had over 80 people surrounding me, holding me up, and pushing me forward. I will always remember the compassion and love my brothers shared with me that night.

It is so true that the more you put into this chapter, the more you get out of it. At first, I was hesitant to show my full character to my brothers, and that is one of my biggest regrets. I quickly learned that I have nothing to be afraid of. Everyone in this place is always here for me, just as much as I am for them. I have learned to shift my priorities and to realize what's most important. For a while I was struggling to find myself, and I think that stemmed from me placing school as my #1 priority. I now place happiness and my relationships as my top priority, and I've never enjoyed my life more. 10 years from now I am not going to remember that test I studied a little harder for, but rather the moments that I shared with my brothers. From chatting with my brothers until 4AM, to playing some competitive basketball, to all the spontaneous trips and adventures, I will be forever grateful for the relationships I have made throughout my college career. The thing I will miss the most about this place is the supportive, community feeling of brotherhood. There is no one here who is the best at everything, and that makes for there always being something to learn. If I am struggling with a homework assignment there is always a brother that is in the same scenario that I can work with. The people in SigEp have challenged me to be the best version of myself, and that has made for a very fruitful college experience that I can look back on with a smile.

Events from the Spring Semester



Brothers attended the Greek Leadership Awards Dinner and won some awards!

Brother Kenneth Otten will be interning at NASA this summer



Brother Justin Trugman will be interning with Loon, a subsidiary of Alphabet



Our current Chapter GPA is a 3.602 which is .202 higher than the all campus GPA

Brothers Jason Chlus and Ryan Tom were elected President and Vice President of the Student Government Association



Brothers Guerra, Priest, and Shah went sight seeing in Nevada over Spring Break



In addition to the SGA, we have brothers that are the president of 13 different clubs and organizations around campus



Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I am so glad to have had the opportunity to put this edition of Alpha Speaks together. I learned so much about this chapter and what's going on behind the scenes. Having joined just over a year ago as a sophomore, all I can say is that I wish that I joined sooner. I can only hope to give back to the chapter as much as it has given to me. I want to express my thanks and appreciation to everyone who makes this chapter so amazing through their hard work and dedication. From our alumni volunteers to the Executive Committee to the newest brothers, thank you!

The best way to continue this connection is to have news from our current undergraduates and also articles from our alumni. If you would like to write an article for the next edition of Alpha Speaks, please email:

vpcommunication@sigepnja.com.



Alexander Murtagh
Public Relations Chair

Conclave 2019

This past July, we had fourteen undergraduate brothers, as well as alumni, attend our biennial Grand Chapter Conclave down in Houston, Texas. Brothers attended empowering seminars, explored the city, and experienced SigEp on a national scale. We are proud to announce that we have won our second gold Buchanan Cup, marking twelve straight years of continuous improvement! Additionally, Brother Jacob Schozer was selected to become a part of the 2020-2021 Reginal Directors team!



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